

Case Study: Alumni

Matthew, PhD Applied Mathematics
Graduation Year: 2007

Job Title: Postdoctoral Researcher

Employer: Stamford University

Department: Institute for Computational & Mathematical Engineering

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to become a professor of applied mathematics, specializing in computational techniques.

Name 3 things you like about your job

- 1) The job is really what I make it. That's certainly not true of many appointments in the investment banking industry which provide little flexibility to follow your own interests.
- 2) I get to meet brilliant minded people and share powerful ideas.
- 3) I am paid to discover new scientific facts.

Anything you are less keen on?

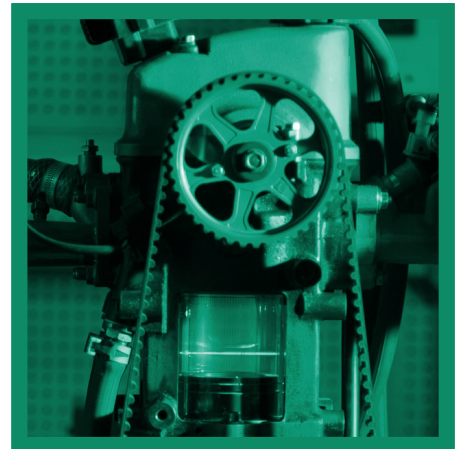
- 1) Job stability - it's a rough ride to a tenured faculty position.
- 2) Pay - quantitative analysts working for investment banks in the city earn 2-3 times the amount that I earn.
- 3) Non-linear - it's difficult to plan much of a life outside of work because of its un-predictable nature.

Did you choose your course with this particular occupation in mind?

I chose this course to distinguish myself as a problem solver - solving problems that scientists have studied for centuries and making a tiny contribution after years of hard work is very gratifying.

Did you gain work experience or an internship whilst at ICL?

I spent two summers working at Los Alamos National Laboratory with the Oceanography group who simulate climate change using supercomputers. This helped me make the transition to postdoctoral studies.



**“I am paid to discover
new scientific facts!”**

- Matthew



Could you give us one or more career tips for Imperial graduates?

How can you leverage your scientific or engineering background to bring value? Find a path that will quickly help you to distinguish yourself and sharpen your wits. Above all, keep your mind wide open.

